

25X1A

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COUNTRY Czechoslovakia 25X1A

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SUBJECT Chemical Warfare Training 25X1A

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REFERENCES:

THIS IS UNEVALUATED INFORMATION

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CW Training in Basic

1. [REDACTED] 25X1X A

2. Each basic trainee was allowed a maximum time of 14 seconds to don the gas mask. The mask used in basic training was described as a German World War II type 30-N. [REDACTED] 25X1X

25X1X [REDACTED] It had a face-type (not helmet-type) facepiece, head harness straps, and a canister which screwed directly into the inlet valve (no connecting hose). In his opinion this was a better mask than the Czech-type mask, [REDACTED]

25X1X The German 30-N mask was replaced with a Czech-made mask in October 1951. He was not sure if this was a new model, as there was never any mention made of it to that effect. He thought at the time they were the old pre-war Czech masks. He did not know the markings of the mask, carrier, or the canister. He did remember that the sizes "1", 25X1X

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"2", and "3" were stamped inside the facepiece at random. The masks were in good condition. The gas masks were carried in a fabric carrier, slung at the side. [See Encl. A.] The facepiece was of rubber construction with a yellowish stockinette covering. There were five head harness straps and one long strap attached to the bottom of the facepiece. This long strap was hung around the neck to carry the mask in the gas ready position. The bottom two of the head harness straps were adjustable. [redacted] not sure if the adjustable buckles were located at the facepiece or at the head harness pad. The eyepieces were round and made of glass. His mask fogged every time he did anything involving exertion. He remembered having heard of anti-dim but never saw any. Spare parts were not available for the Czech masks. Masks at all times were stored with the individual's equipment on his shelf.

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CW Training in the PS Military Academy

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3. [redacted]

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He was taught that CW was becoming more and more important, because the US had used CW and BW in Korea. All students were required to acquire perfection in CW defense. The instructor in tactics told the class that they were expecting the enemy to use gas in the event of war.

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[redacted] The time allowed to don the Czech mask was approximately six seconds, but few could reach this standard. Immediately after donning either type of mask each man put on his cape. No specific time was normally set for donning the protective cape; it took each man approximately three to four seconds to put it on.

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CW Training at the 6th PS Co.

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Subjects taught were chemical agents, first aid, effects of chemical agents, and gas mask drill. The S-3 of the 2nd PS Bn. stressed CW instruction. [redacted]

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Protective Clothing

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[redacted] described the cape as being made of a paper-like material. As far as he knew it was not chemically treated; it was dry. The capes were colored either green, black, or yellow. The practice was to issue capes of the same color to the same unit. The capes were not transparent. Firing with a cape on would require guessing at the target direction. One cape per man was issued. The official name of the protective cape was "Ochranna Plastenka". The cape was not an envelope type of construction. It was a sheet 100 cm. wide and 160 cm. long. [redacted] instructors had mentioned protective trousers, jackets, and stockings and that they would be issued in case of war.

Gas Chamber Exercise

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Students gathered around this spot, with gas mask adjusted to the face, and practiced changing the canister from the end of the corrugated tube to the facepiece. They were told that gas chamber exercises built confidence in the mask, and that the mask gave full protection. This was demonstrated by removing the mask and slowly walking away from the gassed area. The tear gas concentration was strong enough in this ravine to successfully demonstrate chamber exercises.

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Gas Alarm in the Field

8. Gas alarm in the field was given by calling out "gas" and at the same time holding the facepiece above the head so that if the alarm was not heard the mask could be seen, as holding the facepiece over the head was the signal for gas. A runner was used to deliver the alarm to higher headquarters. Radios were not used by defending forces to give the gas alarm. Attacking forces could use a radio to spread a gas alarm. If this was done, simple prearranged code names for the alarm and the location of the areas affected were used.

Recognition of Various Types of Gases

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This was a small wooden box containing several small vials from which each student took a sniff. No graphic training aids or films were used during the CW instruction.

Types of Gases

10. Chemical agents were divided into three categories: poisonous gases, smokes, and incendiaries.

a. Poisonous Gases

- (1) Carbon Monoxide and Hydrocyanic Acid. [redacted] could not give any odors or physiological effects of these gases.

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- (2) Blister gases - Mustard, Yperite, Iperid - manner in which [redacted], Lewisite, Nitrogen Mustard, and one or two others the names of which he could not remember. He also referred to En Yprite / En Iperid - his manner of [redacted] and said that this gas was of the blister family but that its effects worked faster than those of mustard. Blister gases had the odor of onions or garlic, were of a dark green liquid and blistered the skin. Protection needed were the gas mask and protective cape. The only first aid he was taught consisted of dabbing off the liquid from the skin by using a piece of cotton dipped into some kind of solution from the individual protective kit. [redacted] did not know the chemical contents of the individual protective kit.

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- (3) Choking gases - [redacted] These, [redacted] claimed, had the odor of new mown hay. He also mentioned Phosgene, Di-Phosgene and Chloropicrin.

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- (4) Tear gas - Chloroacetophenone, Bromoacetophenone, and Bromobenzylcyanide.

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b. Smokes

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He was also told that smoke could be disseminated by artillery shells, or by airplane spray.

c. Incendiaries

Incendiaries could be fired by artillery or dropped from airplanes. He was told that one use of incendiaries was to burn out wooded areas occupied by troops.

d. New Gases

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He never heard of any gas referred to as "nerve gas". He was told, however, of a new "secret" group of gases developed called Trilony. He undoubtedly Trilony. One of these he said was called Menoline. He was not told who developed these gases. He heard the word tabun mentioned but could not remember anything about it. He recalled being told that there were some gases which could not be seen and were colorless and odorless.

Colors and markings of chemical munitions were taught only to chemical specialists. He knew of none.

Decontamination

11. The only individual decontamination he could recall was the blotting of liquid blister gases from the skin (so as not to spread them), followed by the spreading of some sort of salve on the contaminated spot.
12. Chlorinated lime mixed with water could be used for terrain or equipment decontamination. He was also told that a contaminated area could be crossed by throwing a log across the area or throwing dirt on top of the liquid agent contamination. Flame throwers could also be used.

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Marking of Contaminated Areas

13. He was taught that a contaminated area would be marked by the CW personnel of a reconnaissance unit. Metal stakes, approximately one meter high, with a small flag attached, would be used. The flag had a black skull and crossbones on a yellow background. It was also the duty of the reconnaissance unit to find and mark crossings through large contaminated areas, or to find bypass routes for small contaminated areas. Crossings were marked by stakes joined by white tape.
14. He knew of no chemical units. He was told in the PS Military Academy that in case of combat each reconnaissance unit would have chemical personnel. The number of men would depend on the size of the unit. Their duty would be to detect, mark off, and report to higher headquarters, contaminated areas.

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Dissemination of Gases

15. There were four methods for gas dissemination. He never saw any of them, but was taught they were aircraft spray, aircraft bombs, hand grenades, and artillery shells.

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Flame Throwers

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16. [REDACTED] 25X1X
[REDACTED] He never used one or received any instruction on it. During his entire service he saw only that one flame thrower.

Study of Foreign Material

17. [REDACTED] 25X1X
[REDACTED] All he remembered was that the American gas mask had the canister on the side of the facepiece. He also said that he saw a picture of this US mask.

ENCLOSURES:

- A. Czechoslovak-Made Gas Mask
- B. Czechoslovak Smoke Pot

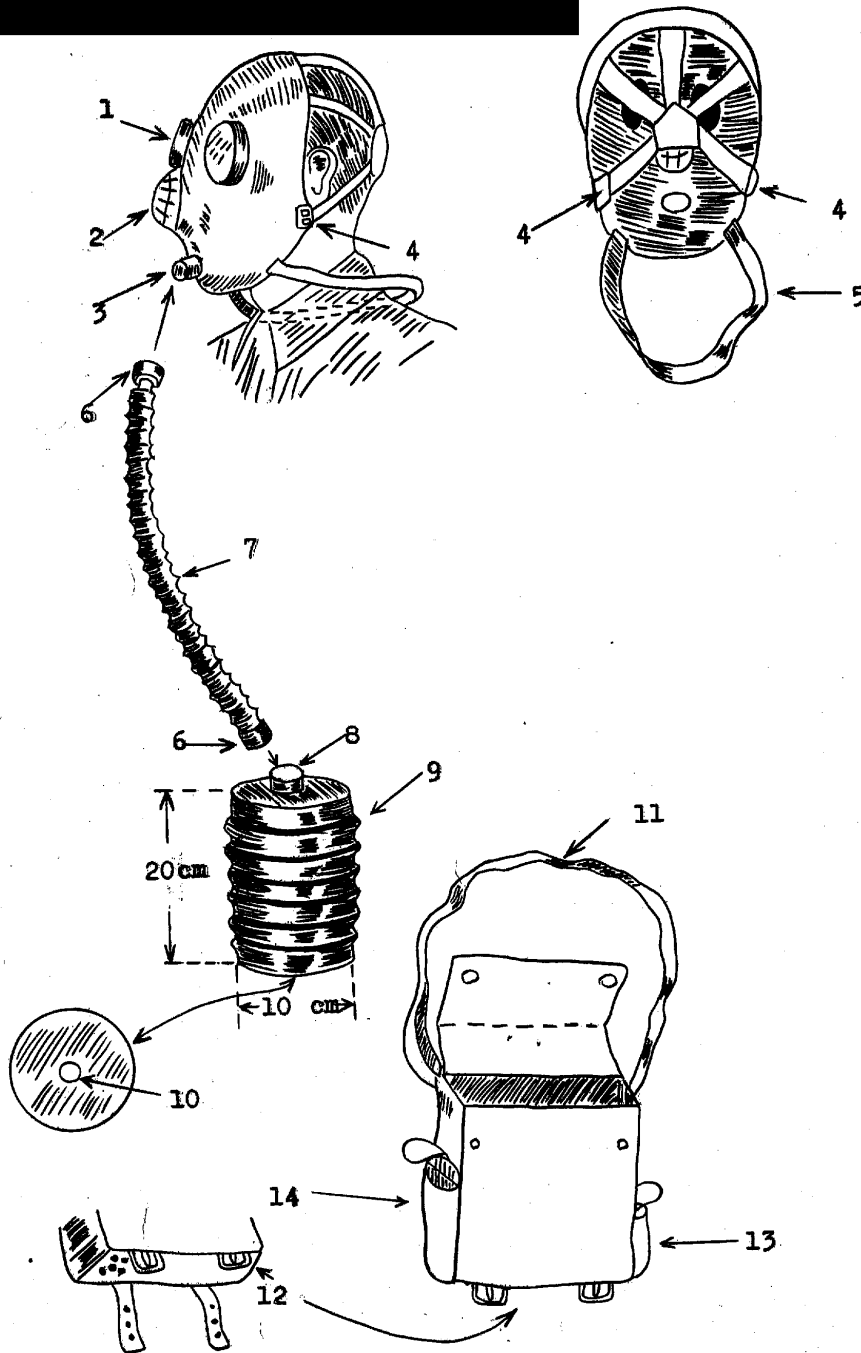
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Enclosure A

Czechoslovak-Made Gas Mask

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Enclosure A (Cont'd)

Czechoslovak-Made Gas MaskLegend

1. Round glass eyepieces
2. Outlet valve
3. Hose connected to the facepiece
4. Adjustable head harness straps
5. Long strap hung around the neck to carry the mask in the ready position.
6. Hose coupling
7. Corrugated rubber hose
8. Canister outlet
9. Tin canister, cylindrical in shape. (Number of swages unknown to Source).
10. Bottom view of canister showing position of canister inlet valve.
11. Adjustable carrier shoulder strap.
12. Bottom view of carrier. Five holes in bottom of carrier for ventilation. A spring located inside of the carrier directly above the ventilation holes used to cushion the canister. Straps and buckles at bottom of carrier are used to fasten the carrier to the cartridge belt.
13. Side pocket with flap used to store individual protective kit.
14. Contents or purpose of this pocket unknown to Source.

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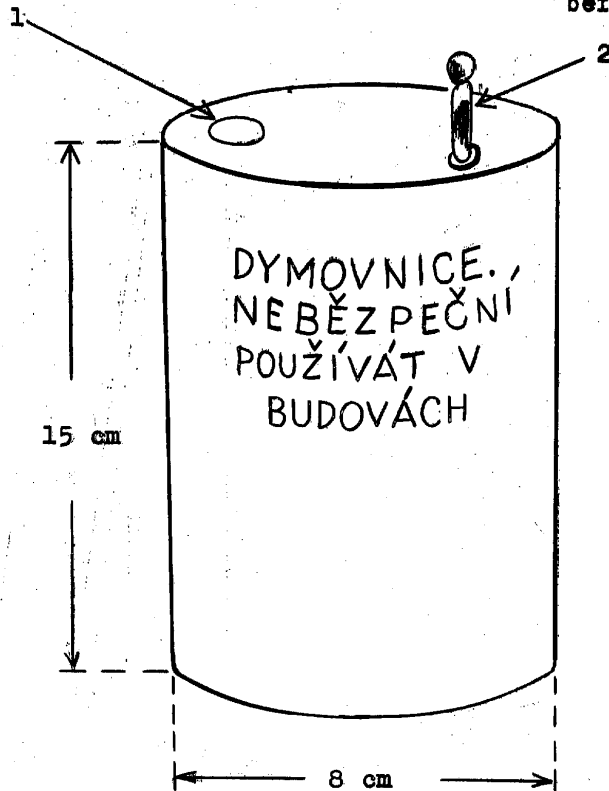
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Enclosure B

Czechoslovak Smoke Pot

Legend

1. Smoke emission hole
2. Match head scratch type igniter (inserted into smoke pot before igniting)



Description

Cylindrical sheet metal container. Olive drab color. Black letters, one centimeter high (SMOKE POT. DANGEROUS TO USE IN BUILDING).

Performance

Burning time 10 minutes. Gives off a white smoke.

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